

INTEX Site Survey
Hawaii
25-30 September 2005

Summary

Conducted site survey of Hawaii airfields and facilities to determine suitability for conducting INTEX-B mission. Visited Kona Airport, Hilo Airport, and Hickam AFB from 25-30 September 2005.

Any of the three sites would be acceptable for the deployment operations. All three sites would require several issues be worked, primarily obtaining office/lab space and badging/security. Based on this initial survey, Hickam looks like the best option, due to the minimal cost of housing, equipment, and facilities. Kona would be an excellent choice operationally, but has the highest per diem of the three sites, and since all services there would be contracted, would be the highest cost option. Hilo is a suitable site, with good lab and ramp space, but the limited availability of lodging makes it the least attractive option during the mission timeframe.

Site survey participants: Mike Gaunce, Kathy Thompson, Rudy Mendiola.

Kona Airport

The Kona International Airport is located at 20° N latitude, 156° W longitude, about 8 miles north of the city of Kona. The airport has one runway, Runway 17/35 at 11,000 ft (see Figure 1). There is direct jet service to Kona from the mainland on United Airlines via LA, San Francisco, Denver, and Chicago. There are also several daily flights on Aloha and Hawaiian airlines from Honolulu. There is daily UPS service from the mainland.

Met with Mr. George Ackerman, Assistant Airport Superintendent, and Ms. Tess Hildebrand, Airport Operations at the Kona Airport. The airport would be willing to host NASA, and has identified ramp space for the aircraft outside of the SIDA-controlled area. There would be no landing or ramp charges. Ramp access would be during normal work hours, although we could arrange for guards to work after hours. The airport would not require any formal agreement with NASA, but could merely submit a written request with mission itinerary as the intent for NASA to come to Kona.

There is no lab or hangar space available at the airport. We would need to either get space at the hotel or bring mobile office trailers to the airport (there is space to place these; we would need to look at power, phone, etc.) We did locate some small trailer space adjacent to the A/C parking area which could be used for the crew.



Figure 1 – Kona Airport
(Note: DC-8 parking would be upper center right near support buildings)

GSE would have to be rented and is available through FBOs or through United or Aloha contract services. We briefly met with the FBOs and contract service providers at the airport. Bradley Pacific provides the contract fuel.

Kona Accommodations

The three facilities researched during the site survey were the Royal Kona Resort, the King Kamehameha, and the Waikoloa Beach Marriott. The Royal Kona Resort and the King Kamehameha are located on the waterfront in Kona, about eight miles from the airport, and within easy walking distance of shops and restaurants (primarily catering to tourists). There also are shops and restaurants on the outskirts of town that are geared more toward the locals. Both hotels are willing to offer rates at or below per diem for the group. Meeting rooms are available at each hotel for use as labs, offices, and a briefing room; however, a daily fee would be assessed for these rooms. The King Kamehameha offers wireless Internet access in the guest rooms. The Royal Kona has wireless access in the public areas and the business center, and data ports in the rooms. The Royal Kona is undergoing a major renovation, and the Internet access options might be upgraded (e.g., wired or wireless in the guest rooms) before the campaign. Both hotels have a daily fee for parking, which we might be able to negotiate at a reduced rate.

The Waikoloa Beach Marriott is located about 20 miles north of the airport. A proposal from the hotel for the group is pending. The hotel charges a \$15 daily fee that covers a

variety of services, including parking and wired Internet service. There are shops and restaurants located within easy walking distance of the hotel. While further from the airport, the commute time is not much longer than from downtown Kona to the airport, primarily because of the reduced traffic traveling away from town.

Hilo Airport

The Hilo International Airport is located at 19° N latitude, 155° W longitude, about 2 miles east of the city of Hilo. The airport has two runways with taxi-ways, Runway 8/26 at 9,800 ft (recently repaved), and 03/21 at 5,600 ft. There is currently no direct jet service to Hilo from the mainland. There are multiple daily flights on Aloha and Hawaiian airlines from Honolulu.

Met with Mr. George Crabbe, Assistant Airport Superintendent at the Hilo Airport. The airport would be very willing to host NASA, and has identified both ramp and lab space for the aircraft outside of the SIDA-controlled area. There would be no landing or ramp charges. While there is also space available at the terminal, airport personnel would strongly prefer not to conduct mission operations in the SIDA area. There would be a badging fee of \$10, plus \$43.50 for fingerprinting and background check on any person requiring SIDA badges. The airport would need a letter request from NASA to initiate detailed planning and support.

Airport has GSE available to NASA at no cost. This includes air stairs, power carts, etc. They could also provide tow tractor and towing at no charge. They do not have an A/C cart, and we would need to contract for lav service.

Toured available building under the control of the Civilian Air Patrol, which has rooms for offices, a flight planning room, hangar space, and break room. There is also aircraft ramp space, auto parking, a secure gate, etc. This building would be an excellent basing site, though some additional office space might be required (either mobile office or another space available at the terminal). Need to contact Mr. Steve Santiago of CAP to request permission for building use.

Also met with Mr. Richard Mitsutani, Official in Charge of the local National Weather Service office in Hilo, and with local security managers of TSA.

Hilo Accommodations

There are two suitable hotels in Hilo, the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel and the Hawaii Naniloa Hotel. The latter was about to be put up for auction, and so no information about the prospective owner or rates (or even if the hotel would be operational) was available. It is unnecessary to go into a detailed discussion about either hotel at this time, because neither has any rooms available during the proposed time frame of the mission (the Merry Monarch Hula Festival will take place 18-23 April, and all of the rooms in town have been booked for several months. If the mission schedule changes, and a decision is made

to go to Hilo, more details about the hotels will be provided; however, it should be noted that the accommodations in Hilo were the least desirable of the three locations that were visited.

Hickam AFB

Hickam AFB is adjacent to the Honolulu International Airport and is located at 21° N latitude, 158° W longitude, about 10 miles west of downtown Honolulu. The airport has four runways with taxi-ways, Runway 04R/22L at 9000 ft, Runway 04L/22R at 7000 ft, Runway 08R/26L at 12,000 ft, and 08L/26R at 12,300 ft (see Figure 2). Honolulu is an extremely busy airport, with over 500 flights per day. The peak traffic period at the airport is from 11 am to 1 pm daily, so there may be some take-off or landing delays during that time. Most of the major carriers have direct flights from their hubs to Honolulu (e.g., DEN, ORD), and there are multiple daily direct flights from the West Coast (e.g., LAX, SFO, SEA).



Figure 2 – Honolulu Airport and Hickam AFB

Met with various personnel at HAFB, hosted by 15th Airlift Wing, including base operations, security, communications, and billeting to present overview of INTEX mission and to discuss deployment support requirements. Also present were representatives of the FAA and the State of Hawaii Airports District Manager. We also conducted a tour of the base, lodging, ramp and flight line, and office space options. The Wing Commander and other AF personnel were very supportive to hosting the NASA mission pending discussion and resolution of the detailed requirements.

Hickam personnel have already identified potential ramp and office space. The available office building has sufficient office space, conference rooms, break area, restrooms, air conditioning, etc. It is adjacent to a ramp area, and there is parking at the building. The Air Force could provide phone lines and service at cost. ESPO would need to bring in an outside internet service provider for network support (to be outside of the military network system).

GSE seems readily available, though we did not tour or assess the Hickam equipment. UND took an action to provide a written list of required equipment, which Hickam will review and confirm availability. Fuel is readily available.

Hickam is willing to make lodging available to mission personnel, and we are able to go ahead and block rooms now. Hickam would also allow access of mission personnel to some on-base services, such as recreational facilities and base exchange. It is also possible to obtain lodging at the nearby Pearl Harbor Naval Air Station. However, foreign nationals would not be able to stay on base, and alternate lodging would be required. It is important to note that there is a risk that we may lose our lodging reservations at any time as military priorities would take precedence for available lodging. If this were to occur, we would need to get local hotels on short notice at the full per diem rate (or higher).

Also met with the base Public Affairs office to coordinate public affairs activities. Hickam would be interested in both internal and external coverage of NASA activities and would be interested in joint press releases. NASA might also support conducting limited tours for base personnel and their families.

Opportune airlift support to/from Hawaii would not be likely, since Hickam will be in the process of switching out support aircraft during that timeframe.

Hickam Accommodations

We anticipate that most of the housing will be available through Hickam AFB. We toured a number of different on-base facilities, and all were very nice. There are some one- and two-bedroom townhouses available, as well as some one-bedroom studios with private baths. Some of the two-bedroom units share a bathroom and common living space, including a full kitchen. Some units have a washer and a dryer, while other buildings have a common laundry area. Most of the rooms have dial-up Internet connections; while some of the buildings have wired or wireless Internet. Room prices range from \$29 to \$56. We will need to provide a rooming list to the Billeting Office, and travel orders would need to be prepared for everyone staying on the base. Once reservations are made, our housing commitment would be secure except in the case of an Air Force emergency.

It is important to note that, because of the escort requirement, no foreign nationals would be allowed to secure on-base housing. They would have to stay in a nearby commercial hotel. Rather than preclude the entire instrument team from staying on-base, the recommendation is to house the foreign nationals and perhaps one U.S. member of each team commercially (the foreign national would need an escort in order to enter the base), providing them with their own rental car, rather than limiting each team to just one rental car. The cost of this extra car would be more than made up for with the savings afforded by having other members of the team stay in military housing.

(Note: During CRYSTAL-FACE, some foreign nationals made arrangements to meet their escort at the entrance gate at a designated time, thereby allowing all of the U.S. members of their team to use military housing. In addition, no guests, spouses, or children were allowed to use military housing. This will need to be considered when the investigators make their plans for housing.)

Time did not allow for a site visit to any of the commercial hotels in Honolulu or Waikiki Beach. There are a number of hotels, but it might be difficult to get per diem rates for more than a small number of groups, again enforcing the desirability of housing most of the investigators on the base. Kathy Thompson will research some commercial hotels that might be able to accommodate the foreign nationals and perhaps a team member to serve as their escort to gain access to the base.

Gases

Kona: Air Liquide, 808-326-7565.
Hilo: Air Liquide, 808-935-2921.
Honolulu: Air Liquide, 808-862-2100

Internet Service Providers

Kona: Hawaii Internet, 808-329-9700
Hilo: Coconut Wireless, 808-930-0100
Honolulu: Aloha.com, 888-722-4636 or Oceanic Cable (Hickam)

Mobile Office Trailers

Hawaii: Hawaii Modular, www.hawaiiomodularspace.com, POC: Guy Marakami, 800-845-8622, 808-329-6644. All size units available, with A/C and power; phone and internet would need to be added.

General Information

Kona: Kona is located on the western or leeward side of the big island of Hawaii. It is warm sunny and dry. There are stores nearby (e.g., Safeway, WalMart, Lowe's Hardware, Macy's) and a wide variety of restaurants. Gas on the Big Island is currently \$3.40-\$3.50/gal.

Hilo: There is a lot of rain in Hilo (on average, it rains 278 days each year). There are restaurants, grocery stores, and other services nearby. There is an HPM hardware store very close to the airport.

Honolulu: Honolulu is a major city, with every service imaginable. Gas is around \$3.20/gal.